U.S. National Library of Medicine History of Medicine Division

SELECTED MEDICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES EXHIBITED IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

History of Medicine Division

The following exhibit list has been drawn up to assist visiting student-librarians interested in the history of medical bibliography.

References in the notes are to supplementary descriptions in the following:

Brodman - BRODMAN, Estelle. The development of medical bibliography. Medical Library Association, 1954 (MLA Publication no. 1)

Fulton - FULTON, John F. The great medical bibliographers. A study in humanism. Philadelphia, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1951 (Yale Univ. Yale Medical Library. Historical Library. Publication no. 28)

MLA Handbook - MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Handbook of medical library practice ... 2 ed. Chicago, American Library Association, 1956, [Bibliography of reference works, p. 345-537]

Thornton - THORNTON, John L. Medical Books, libraries and collectors. A study of bibliography and the book trade in relation to the medical sciences. London, Grafton, 1949.

1. CHAMPIER, Symphorien
De medicine claris scriptoribus. [Lyons? 1506?]

This work has all the faults of a pioneer effort. Champier's chronology is uncertain; his arrangement confused; and his biographical data either hopelessly vague or wildly inaccurate. Of the 126 entries, ranging in length from a few lines to a page or more, the least satisfactory are those on Avicenna (980-1037) and Hippocrates. Avicenna is described (leaf xviii^{r}) as "a prince and king of Córdoba" who "poisoned Averroes" despite the fact that the latter's dates are 1126-1198. Hippocrates lived to be 95 and wrote "about 26 elegant works" according to Champier, who is too interested in dubious anecdote even to list their titles. The later sections on medieval writers of Italy, France, Spain, Germany, and England are better written. Champier includes writers still alive at the time he wrote, e.g. Alessandro Benedetti (leaf xxxv^{r}) and the famous Italian medical humanist, Niccolò Leoniceno (leaf xxv^{v}). Indeed, his book is chiefly valuable today as evidence of the contemporary spread of enlightenment from Italy to France. Cf. Brodman p. 4-9; Fulton p. 4-10; Thornton p. 158.

ZWB
100
U585s
1965
c.1

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
BETHESDA 14, MD.

2. BRUNFELS, Otto
Catalogus illustrium medicorum, sive de primis medicinae scriptoribus. Strasbourg, 1530.

About 150 ancient medical writers are described, some at considerable length (e.g. Hippocrates, p. 7-12, listing 49 items, Aristotle, p. 42-50, and Galen, p. 55-68, the latter listing 110 items). Another 100 are summarily listed from ancient authorities on p. 72-74. The section on medieval authors leaves much to be desired, and indeed appears to be incomplete. Rudimentary subject lists conclude the volume. These include: anatomy (3 items), surgery (6 items), case-reports (4 items), antidotaries (7 items) and works on the plague and fevers (8 items). Cf. Brodman p. 10-14; Fulton p. 15-17; Thornton p. 158.

3. [GESNER, Konrad, ed.]
Chirurgia. De Chirurgia scriptores optimi ... Zürich, 1555.

This collection of early surgical texts includes at end (leaves 395^{r}-408^{r}) biographical and bibliographical notes on some 110 surgeons and surgical writers. The imprint information is much more complete than in the preceding works by Champier and Brunfels: Gesner gives place, publisher or printer, date and format. A new feature is the generous provision of analytics, e.g. in the entries for Amatus Lusitanus, Antonius Benivenius, and Bartholomaeus Montagnana. At least one entry, that on Theophrastus Paracelsus (leaf 408^{r}) includes a vivid, if unflattering, character sketch. Cf. Brodman p. 15-18.

4. LECOCQ, Pascal [Paschalis Gallus]
Bibliotheca medica ... Basel, 1590.

An extensive author list, comprising some 1500 items, arranged alphabetically by forename. Lecocq provides brief biographical details (occasionally including birth and/or death dates) and full biographical information. There is an index of authors' surnames and, at the end, valuable subject lists (p. 303-457) which include medical writings in French and German and works on surgery, anatomy, materia medica, the plague and syphilis. The compiler appears to have been the first to note the presence of unpublished manuscripts in private hands or in public collections. See, for example, his articles on Joannes Actuarius (p. 37), Avicenna (p. 40-41) and Guy de Chauliac (p. 116-117). Cf. Brodman p. 18-20; Fulton p. 58 (note 3); Thornton p. 159-160.

5. SPACH, Israel
Nomenclator scriptorum medicorum. Frankfurt am Main, 1591.

A subject bibliography, with the authors arranged alphabetically by forename under each subject heading. Spach, like his predecessor Lecocq, includes references to both printed books and MSS. There are author and subject indexes at the end of the volume. Included are 1,436 medical writers under some 30 subject groupings (Fulton). Cf. Brodman p. 20; Fulton p. 58; Thornton p. 160.

6. SCHENCK, Johann Georg
Biblia iatrica. Frankfurt am Main, 1609.

An author list. Contains a great number of new writers and gives a better account of printed editions and MSS. Compare, for example, Schenck's entries on Ambroise Paré and Andreas Vesalius with Lecocq's. Schenck also refers on occasion to portraits in books, or in private collections. Subject lists, promised in the preface, were, it seems, never published.

7. LINDEN, Johannes Antonides van der
De scriptis medicis. Amsterdam, 1637.

Another author list, arranged alphabetically by forenames, with indexes of surnames and subjects. An indication of the coverage is provided by the following random sampling: Linden lists 40 writers on arthritis (p. 523), 23 on gout (ibid.), 80 on syphilis (p. 527-528) and over 150 on the plague (p. 528-530). Subsequently revised and considerably enlarged by Georg Abraham Mercklin in 1686. Cf. Brodman p. 29-33; Fulton p. 35-36; Thornton p. 160.

8. LIPENIUS, Martinus
Bibliotheca realis medica. Frankfurt am Main, 1679.

This is a handsomely printed subject bibliography in folio, with 2 columns to a page, guide letters at the head of each column, subject headings or title entries in capitals, and generous leading between the subject groupings. A possible criticism is that Lipenius is inconsistent in his adoption of headings: for example, there is no attempt to regularise the use of noun plus adjective or adjective plus noun phrases, though the alternatives are usually linked by see or see also references. Again, two headings are frequently used, where one would have sufficed. Nevertheless, the bibliographical citations are adequate, and a good index of authors, commentators, translators etc. is provided at the end. Cf. Brodman p. 37-44; Fulton p. 59; Thornton p. 161.

9. BEUGHEM, Cornelius à
Bibliographia medica & physica novissima. Amsterdam, 1681.

An author catalog of books printed from 1651 to 1681, arranged in alphabetical order of surnames. The first section lists books printed in Greek, Latin and oriental languages, with detailed analyses of authors' collected works, and occasional analytical entries for articles published in the newly founded journals. Sections 2-7 list books in French, Spanish, Italian, English, German and Dutch respectively. Each section contains an appendix devoted to anonyma. There is a combined author index at end.

The same author's Syllabus recens exploratorum in re medica physica & chymica ... Amsterdam, 1696, is an early guide to the contents of serials. Each periodical is separately indexed by author. Citations include volume, page or article number, and title of article. Cf. Brodman p. 44-47; Fulton p. 36-37; Thornton p. 161. All three cite the important analysis of the Bibliographia by Lynn Thorndike in Annals of medical history, n. s. 6 (1934) p. 219-223.

10. HALLER, Albrecht von
Bibliotheca medicinae practicae. Basel, 1776-1788. 4 v.

The product of a lifetime's systematic reading and note-taking, this is one of four subject bibliographies compiled in Haller's last years. The arrangement is roughly chronological, with each author receiving a numbered section. Each citation comprises the author's name, an accurate title transcription, and complete imprint data. In many cases Haller appends a summary of the contents of the book or comments (sometimes unfavourably) on the author's views, his contributions, and his treatment. The criticisms are often pungently expressed; but if Haller is sometimes severe, he is usually just.

The only regrettable features of this admirable work, are the absence of a subject index, and the inaccurate author index supplied in the last volume. Cf. Brodman p. 71-74; Fulton p. 43-45; MLA Handbook no. 174; Thornton p. 162-3.

11. PLOUCQUET, Wilhelm Gottfried
Literatura medica digesta sive repertorium medicinae practicae, chirurgiae atque rei obstetriciae. Tübingen, 1808-1809.

The judicious employment of quarto format, 3 column layout, and smaller type enabled the compiler to cumulate in 4 volumes his earlier 12 volume series, plus a further 40,000 items that had accrued by 1806. The resultant subject bibliography contains according to Ploucquet's own estimate some 200,000 items derived from sources listed in the first volume. General treatises, special monographs, theses, and journal articles are analysed. Subject headings are sensibly chosen, competently divided and subdivided where appropriate, and linked generously by see and see also references. Outstanding articles include: Apoplexia (34 columns); Epilepsia (77 columns); Morbus (70 columns); Pestis (64 columns); and Variola (82 1/2 columns). A continuation was published in 1813. Cf. Brodman p. 75-80 [correcting Thornton's account]; Fulton p. 62-64; MLA Handbook no. 179; Thornton p. 163.

12. REUSS, Jeremias David
Repertorium commentationum a societatibus litterariis editarum. Göttingen, 1801-1821. 16 v.

A subject index to the contents of scientific society publications in the 17th and 18th centuries. Vols. 10-16 (1813-1821) deal with medicine. Author indexes are supplied in vols. 15 and 16, and subject indexes at the beginning of each volume. Vol. 10 is largely devoted to anatomy, physiology and nosology; vol. 11 to materia medica and pharmacy; vols. 12-15 to therapeutics, general and specific; and vol. 16 to obstetrics and veterinary medicine. Surgery and medical jurisprudence are also treated in vol. 15. Cf. MLA Handbook no. 7; Thornton p. 164.

13. CALLISEN, Adolph Carl Peter
Medicinisches Schriftsteller-Lexicon der jetzt lebenden Aerzte, Wundärzte, Geburtshelfer, Apotheker, und Naturforscher aller gebildeten Völker. Copenhagen and Altona, 1830-1845. 33 v.

An exhaustive and exhausting author list, containing 99,001 items published in monograph and serial form from ca. 1750 to 1840. Callisen supplies brief but reliable biographical data whenever these were to be had; notes variant editions, translations, and reviews; and summarises the contents of collected works. Vols. 22-25 list alphabetically by title anonymous works, serials, and works of multiple authorship. The remaining 8 volumes list additional titles and items by writers deceased since 1830. For Callisen, one can have nothing but admiration; his energy must have been super-human. All the more pity, then, that he was so poorly served by his printer and publisher. The work is miserably printed and designed. Nevertheless, it is an indispensable complement to the subject bibliography of Ploucquet. Cf. Brodman p. 82-86; Fulton p. 66; MLA Handbook no. 88; Thornton p. 166.

14 ATKINSON, James
Medical bibliography, A & B. London, 1834.

Dedicated "to all idle medical students in Great Britain," this entertaining compilation was never completed. Its eccentric author became bored with it. Atkinson's work is distinguished less for its scholarship (which is sometimes suspect) than for its Rabelaisian wit. An author index was wisely supplied at the end: even Atkinson's alphabetisation is distinctly quixotic. On p. 365, bibliography is perhaps accurately typified as "dry, dusty, tedious, accursed, hateful." Cf. Fulton p. 52-54; Thornton p. 166.

15. FORBES, Sir John
A manual of select medical bibliography. London, 1835.

An alphabetical arrangement of subjects, under which books and articles are entered in chronological order. Each entry includes a note on the etymology of the term used in the heading, and a list of the synonyms in the classical and modern languages. At the end are lists of collected works, systematic treatises and periodicals arranged by country. The work "represents the first serious attempt on the part of anyone in the English-speaking world to give a subject classification for medical literature" (Fulton). For those interested in tracing the history of specific disease entities, the work is invaluable. Cf. Fulton p. 64-65; Thornton p. 167.

16. PAULY, Alphonse
Bibliographie des sciences médicales. Paris, 1874: fascim. ed., London, 1954.

This bibliography was begun at the instance of the eminent French medical historian, Charles Daremberg, and was originally based on his extensive collections now in the Académie de Médecine library in Paris. The five main sections comprise bibliography, biography, history, epidemiology and medical geography, subdivided by time and place. Pauly includes both books and periodical articles. An author index is provided at the end. A worthy successor to Ludwig Choulant's Bibliotheca medico-historica (Leipzig, 1842). Cf. Fulton p. 76; Thornton p. 167.